# INDUSTRY PROFILES

## Utilities Industry

June 2013

Alberta

**Overview:**

The Utilities industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 22

## Section A: Business Environment

### 1. 2012 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

| | Alberta | Utilities Industry |
|---|---|---|
| Number of employed | 2,149,600 | 20,700 |
| Percent employed in the industry | | 1.0% |
| Number of unemployed | 103,800 | N/A |
| Unemployment rate | 4.6% | N/A |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2013
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

### 2. Industry's Growth:

- This industry accounted for 1.0% of total employment in Alberta in 2012.
- Employment in the Utilities industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.7% from 2011 to 2015.
- This industry is expected to account for 0.9% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.

For more information, see the *Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2011 – 2015, Industry Employment Outlook*[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website for descriptions of industries.

[2] See http://www.eae.alberta.ca/lmi
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://eae.alberta.ca/labour-and-immigration/labour-market-information/labour-market-forecasts.aspx
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

## 3. Facts, Trends and Outlook:

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for 2.3% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2011, the same as in 2001. The industry's share of Alberta's total employment was 1.0% in 2012, the same as in 2002.

Employment in 2012 was 27.0% higher than its level in 2011. Over the last ten years, employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people) increased from 16,700 people in 2002 to 20,700 people in 2012. There were 20,600 employees in the industry in 2012 of whom 85.8% were permanent and 14.2% were temporary. Data on self-employed people in the industry in 2012 were not available due to sample size.

| Characteristic | Alberta | Utilities |
|---|---|---|
| Median Retirement Age (years) | 63.7 | N/A |
| Average Number of Hours Worked per Week | 38.2 | 40.1 |
| Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment) | 5.7% | N/A |
| Average Job Tenure (months) | 88.8 | 115.1 |
| Employees Under Union Coverage (%) | 23.5% | 45.6% |
| Employees Working Overtime per Week (%) | 26.0% | 38.5% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2013, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size
Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders in Alberta is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in Alberta by total employment in Alberta. The percentage of multiple jobholders in the industry is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders in the industry by total employment in the industry. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

According to *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2012-2016*[6], employment growth in the following occupations is expected to be less than 2.4%, the average for all occupations: Stationary engineers and power station and system operators; and Managers in manufacturing and utilities.

[6] See http://eae.alberta.ca/labour-and-immigration/labour-market-information/labour-market-forecasts.aspx

## 4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

| Establishment Size | Businesses in Alberta | | Businesses in Utilities | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Employees | %* | Number of Employees | % |
| Less than 20 employees | 633,200 | 35.1% | 3,400 | 16.5% |
| 20 to 99 employees | 634,600 | 35.2% | 5,300 | 25.7% |
| 100 to 500 employees | 342,100 | 19.0% | 5,700 | 27.7% |
| Over 500 employees | 194,400 | 10.8% | 6,200 | 30.1% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2013

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

## Section B: Human Resources Profile

### 1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[7] website.

### 2. Demographics: Gender and Age:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry in 2012 was as follows:

- women employed: 6,300 people, or 30.4%
- men employed: 14,400 people, or 69.6%

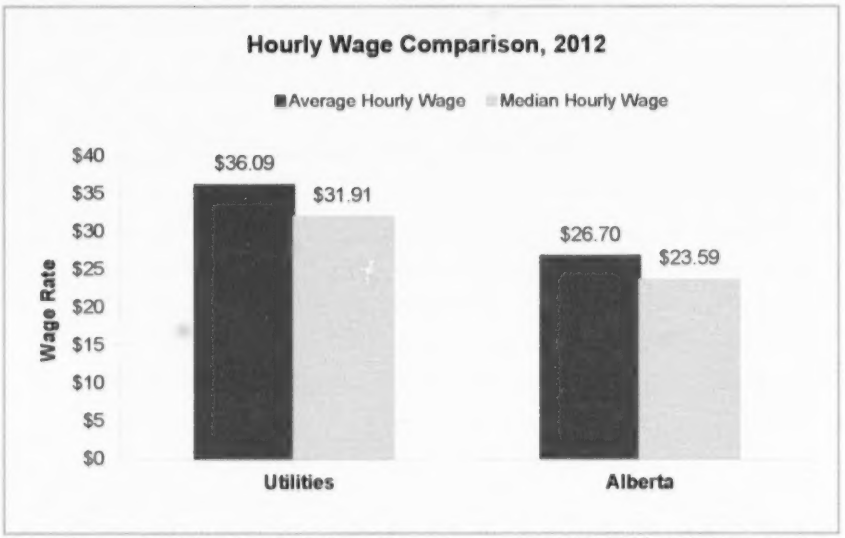
In Alberta, women accounted for 44.8% and men made up 55.2% of total employment.

| Age Characteristics | Employment in Alberta | | Employment in Utilities | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | % | Number | % |
| 15-24 years | 315,500 | 14.7% | N/A | N/A |
| 25-54 years | 1,458,300 | 67.8% | 17,300 | 83.6% |
| 55 years and over | 375,800 | 17.5% | 2,600 | 12.6% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2013
Note: N/A denotes data suppressed by Statistics Canada due to insufficient sample size.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

## 3. Wages:




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0072, 2013
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

### Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

| Occupation | Average Hourly Wage | | | Average Annual Salary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Starting Average | Overall Average | Top Average | |
| Power system electrician | $ 40.28 | $ 42.10 | $ 44.29 | $ 87,558 |
| Utilities manager | $ 42.41 | $ 47.98 | $ 55.26 | $ 100,265 |
| Waterworks and gas maintenance worker | $ 35.49 | $ 38.71 | $ 41.96 | $ 78,909 |
| Electrical power line and cable workers | $ 37.88 | $ 42.68 | $ 44.89 | $ 88,770 |

Data Source: 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the 2011 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, refer to the WAGEinfo[8] webpage. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the ALIS[9] website.

[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[9] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

## Section C: Additional Information

### Links to Government and Selected Associations in Industry:

- Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board
  (http://www.ercb.ca)
- Canadian Gas Association
  (http://www.cga.ca)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association
  (http://www.canwea.ca)
- Canadian Electricity Association
  (http://www.electricity.ca)